IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting on Page 16, Line 9 of the application as follows:

According to another advantageous embodiment of the present invention, the secure domain is attached to the USB, external to the Host, and appears to the USB as a Hub or a composite device. This embodiment comprises a USB bus, a memory attached to the USB bus for storing each data packet sent from, or received in, the secure domain, in which the memory contains a set of buffers, and in which each of the buffers contains data associated with the Host or with the device. Circuitry attached to the USB bus acting as [[an]] a USB node is utilized to forward commands and/or requests for information received in the secure domain and addressed to the devices within the secure domain. A processor is also attached to the USB bus for classifying data packets and for controlling forwarding and/or encrypting operations. A USB Host controller attached to the USB bus is utilized for managing data flow between the Host and the USB devices within the secure domain.

Please amend the paragraph starting on Page 24, Line 7 of the application as follows:

USB Host Controller 303 carries out all the USB tasks required for Lower USB Tree 304 transactions, as if USB Host Controller 303 were the USB root Hub of a Host. Communication flow that originates at Lower USB Tree 304 is performed through pipes that originate at the devices of Lower USB Tree 304 and terminate in memory buffers in memory device 302 of USB Bridge 300. USB Bridge Processor 301 carries out the rest of the communication tasks and actually enables secure transactions to take place. In order to filter and block off particular Endpoint data, USB Bridge Processor 301 is required to determine how to handle each of the received packets.

Please amend the paragraph starting on Page 31, Line 21 of the application as follows:

In the alternative embodiment shown in FIGURE 3b, all USB devices reside in secure domain 330. Additionally, non-USB devices may be accessed utilizing secure domain 330 while maintaining the USB style software interface. This provides a low cost and flexible implementation. Since no additional USB hardware is required, this embodiment is considered to be a very advantageous embodiment of the invention. A USB Node controller of the type used in USB Bridge 300 ~~is not required~~ is not required in this alternate embodiment. In addition, the implementation of USB Host Controller 334 can largely be accomplished in firmware. This means that the tradeoff between the performance of the solution and the amount of dedicated hardware support required will be determined only by the application requirements.